

Special Union for the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks (Nice Union)

Committee of Experts

Thirty-Sixth Session
Geneva, April 27 to May 1, 2026

REPORT

adopted by the Committee of Experts

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee of Experts of the Nice Union (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) held its thirty-sixth session in Geneva from April 27 to May 1, 2026, in hybrid format. The following members of the Committee were represented at the session: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, China, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America (48). The following States were represented by observers: Chad, Dominican Republic, Iraq, Madagascar, Niger, Senegal, Thailand and Togo (8). Representatives of the following international intergovernmental organizations took part in the session in an observer capacity: African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), Benelux Organization for Intellectual Property (BOIP) and European Union (EU). Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations attended the session in an observer capacity: International Trademark Association (INTA), Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA) and AIJA. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. Kunihiro Fushimi, Director, International Classifications and Standards Division of WIPO, who welcomed the participants.

OFFICERS

3. In view of Ms. Laura Russo's (Australia) unavailability to serve as the Chair of the Committee of Experts of the Nice Union, the Vice-Chair Mr. Andreas Östlund (Sweden) presided over the meeting (hereinafter referred to as "the Chair"). Ms. Chi Suan Kok (Singapore) served as Vice-Chair.

4. Ms. Alison Züger (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Committee unanimously adopted the agenda, which appears as Annex II to this report.

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

6. As decided by the Governing Bodies of WIPO at their tenth series of meetings held from September 24 to October 2, 1979 (see document AB/X/32, paragraphs 51 and 52), the report of this session reflects only the conclusions of the Committee (decisions, recommendations, opinions, etc.) and does not, in particular, reflect the statements made by any participant, except where a reservation in relation to any specific conclusion of the Committee was expressed or repeated after the conclusion was reached.

DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

7. In accordance with the provisions of Article 3(7)(a) and (b) of the Nice Agreement, the decisions of the Committee concerning the adoption of amendments¹ to the Nice Classification (hereinafter referred to as "the Classification") required a four-fifths majority of the countries of the Nice Union represented and voting at the session. Decisions concerning the adoption of other changes to the Classification required a simple majority of the countries of the Nice Union represented and voting at the session.

ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

8. In accordance with Rule 7 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee agreed that changes to the Classification that did not entail an amendment in the sense of Article 3(7)(b) of the Nice Agreement will enter into force on January 1, 2027, and will be incorporated in a new version of the Classification. Amendments will enter into force later, at a date to be determined by the Committee.

9. The Committee noted that the International Bureau will make an early publication available on the NCLPub site, and the list of goods and services in Excel format, in

¹ Article 3(7)(b) of the Nice Agreement provides that "... "Amendment" shall mean any transfer of goods or services from one class to another or the creation of any new class."

English and French, will be made available on the [Nice Classification Download and IT support](#) webpage by the end of June 2026.

10. The Committee invited the International Bureau to take the opportunity of correcting any obvious typing or grammatical errors which it found in the text of the Classification and harmonizing, as far as possible, the use of punctuation.

BUSINESS SEGMENT

USER ASSOCIATIONS PRESENT THEIR NICE CLASSIFICATION-RELATED ISSUES

11. The Representative of the International Trademark Association (INTA) made a statement thanking the Committee for the work undertaken in the previous session to address the size of Class 9. Nevertheless, INTA reiterated the importance of continuing the structural reform of this class through transferring specific goods from Class 9 to other existing classes, where technically justifiable. The technological evolution of software was emphasized, in particular when the boundary between goods and services has become less apparent for users. INTA repeated their commitment to engage with national IP offices and stakeholders to ensure that clarity, coherence and predictability are reinforced in trademark practice worldwide (the full statement by INTA is available on the WIPO Meetings page for the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of Experts of the Nice Union [CLIM/CE/36](#)).

12. The Vice Chair of the Japan Patent Attorney Association (JPAA) made a statement to address two issues related to proposals submitted by Japan. Firstly, the need for further specific indications for services provided in virtual environments to be added to the Alphabetical List where appropriate. This would help to provide guidance that is easy for users to understand and to ensure consistency in examination practice among national offices. Secondly, JPAA requested the Committee to consider the appropriate classification of services that provide venues for wedding ceremonies. Finally, JPAA reiterated the comments from INTA related to the classification of software and other digital technologies and hoped that the Committee would continue to consider the appropriate classification of related goods and services (the full statement by JPAA is available on the WIPO Meetings page for the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of Experts of the Nice Union [CLIM/CE/36](#)).

13. One delegation expressed support for continued engagement with user associations and encouraged further analytical and evidence-based work in this area. Another delegation cautioned that the transfer of goods from one class to another has adverse consequences for applicants by increasing the total number of classes to be filed, thereby increasing the fee. Nevertheless, the said delegation agreed that the current technological developments made it necessary to clearly distinguish between goods in Class 9 and services in Class 42, and stressed the importance of taking careful well considered decisions regarding the proper classification.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS IN GROUP 1 (FOUR-FIFTHS MAJORITY APPROVAL) AFTER VOTE 1 IN NCLRMS

14. Discussions were based on Group 1 in [NCLRMS](#), which contained proposals for changes to the 2026 version of the Classification that had received four-fifths majority support at Vote 1.

15. Three proposals were moved to Group 2 due to harmonization issues with existing basic numbers. The Committee agreed to adopt the remaining 387 proposals in Group 1 (59% of total submitted proposals). This also included a topic submitted by Germany,

with assistance from EUIPO and the International Bureau, aimed at reformulating indications in Classes 6, 19 and 20 into a more natural word order. The decisions of the Committee are available in [NCLRMS/Sessions/CE36](#).

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS IN GROUP 2 (INCLUDING AMENDMENTS AND OTHER CHANGES) AFTER VOTE 1 IN NCLRMS

16. Discussions were based on Group 2 in [NCLRMS](#), which contained proposals for amendments and other changes to the 2026 version of the Classification that had not received four-fifths majority support at Vote 1.

17. Overall, the Committee adopted a significant number of changes to the Classification (total of 178 changes were approved at the Group 2 stage). The decisions of the Committee are available in [NCLRMS/Sessions/CE36](#).

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS REGARDING THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF AI ON THE NICE CLASSIFICATION

18. Brainstorming and exploratory discussions took place to exchange ideas, experiences and potential implications, opportunities and challenges that AI-assisted technology could present for the Nice Classification.

19. The Committee noted, with gratitude, the presentations provided by Australia, Mexico and the EUIPO on their experiences with computer-assisted (e.g. AI-based) tools and opinions on the potential implication to the Nice Classification.

20. The Committee discussed the challenges in the use of AI faced by offices, including the necessity of high-quality training data, classification accuracy and the need for classification terms to be interpreted harmoniously across multiple languages. It also noted the potential addition of a semantic and digital layer, with keeping the class structure of the Nice Classification and its legal function to provide stability, at Nice Classification level or at national level.

21. The IB suggested that more reflection around how the Nice Classification may be affected by AI-assisted technology may be needed before further discussions continue. One possibility could be to conduct a survey and, depending on the data received, the Committee could rediscuss this topic at its next meeting or try to convene a short informal virtual meeting during the intersessional period. It is noted that this theme should continue to be considered by the Committee. It was also informed that all presentation materials will be made available on the WIPO Meetings page for the Nice Union Committee of Experts ([CLIM/CE/36](#)).

NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

22. The Committee noted that the next (thirty-seventh) session would be held in Geneva at the end of April or beginning of May 2027, subject to the schedule of WIPO meetings, including principal Committees.

ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND TWO VICE-CHAIRS FOR THE THIRTY-SEVENTH AND THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

23. The Committee was invited to nominate and elect Officers for the next two calendar years, namely for the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions. One delegation nominated the Chair of the current session Mr. Andreas Östlund (Sweden), which was warmly received by other Member States. Nevertheless, the Chair pointed out that further approval may be required at national level. The Committee took note that the nomination process will remain open and that the election will take place at the start of the thirty-seventh session in 2027.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

24. The Chair closed the session.

25. *The Committee of Experts unanimously adopted this report by electronic means on May 21, 2026.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX I
AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Business Segment
User Associations present their Nice Classification-related issues
4. Consideration of proposals in Group 1 (four-fifths majority approval) after Vote 1 in NCLRMS (Nice Classification Revision Management Solution)
See NCLRMS.
5. Consideration of proposals in Group 2 after Vote 1 in NCLRMS
See NCLRMS.
6. Exchange of views regarding the potential impact of AI on the Nice Classification
7. Next Session of the Committee of Experts
8. Election of a Chair and two Vice-Chairs for the Thirty-Seventh and Thirty-Eighth Sessions of the Committee of Experts
9. Closing of the Session

[End of Annex I and of document]